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Editor
The Boston Globe
135 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02107

Dear Editor:

Recent correspondence to the Boston Globe and other newspapers make it clear that our nation is dangerously divided between pro-life and pro-choice groups. The pro-life group is a vocal, highly organized political minority attempting to impose its will on American women, just as similar and overlapping minorities attempt to impose their views of evolution or of prayers in schools.

The pro-choice position on abortion is endangered because President George Bush is openly opposed to it and the U.S. Supreme Court appears to be leaning against it. Bush has chosen as his Solicitor General a right-wing, pro-life judge, who will be the one to present Bush's case to the Supreme Court. How far Bush's first attack on Roe vs. Wade will go is hard to foresee, but it is reasonable to predict that the Administration will ultimately aim at criminalization of all abortions -- a return to the 'middle ages' oppression of women.

How can a vigorous pro-choice movement prepare to resist the onslaught by a pro-life government? Traditional forms of organization are valuable, but may prove insufficient in terms of the probable schedule of the expected attack.

One wonders whether new initiatives may be required; for example, a plan for a national strike by women and their supporters if the Supreme Court appears close to repeal of Roe vs. Wade. Preparation for a national strike, which may if successful immobilize the country, should not await the Supreme Court decision. It might be put into effect on the day when the Solicitor General of the U.S. files Mr. Bush's case with the Supreme Court.

If my suggestion appears to some to be extreme, let us not forget that the attack by pro-life groups on American women is probably the greatest challenge to American democracy since the pro-slavery challenge of the 1850's.

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Nobel Laureate, 1969

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